

***Helictopleurus neoamplicollis* nom. nov. for  
*Helictopleurus amplicollis* (Harold) (Insecta: Coleoptera:  
Scarabaeidae: Oniticellini)**

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Abstract. *Oniticellus amplicollis* Harold, 1880 (currently *Helictopleurus amplicollis*, Scarabaeidae: Oniticellini), a name for an extant dung beetle from Madagascar, is a junior primary homonym of *O. amplicollis* Heer, 1862, a name for a Miocene fossil from Öhningen. Considering the provisional nature of the current classification of Oniticellini and the uncertain generic classification of the senior homonym, it cannot be excluded that both species will sometime become congeneric again. Therefore, I propose a nomen novum for the junior homonym: *Helictopleurus neoamplicollis* nom. nov.

Key Words. Nomenclature, homonymy, nomen novum, Oniticellini, Helictopleurina.

While compiling a catalogue of fossil Scarabaeoidea (Krell 2000), I discovered the following primary homonymy within the dung beetle tribe Oniticellini (Scarabaeidae):

Heer (1862: 76) described *Oniticellus amplicollis* based on one specimen from the Miocene shales of Öhningen, Germany. Later this binomen was used by Heer (1865: 378f; 1883: 404f), Scudder (1891: 558), Handlirsch (1907: 837), and Krell (in press).

Harold (1880: 155) used the same name for a new extant species from Madagascar, *Oniticellus amplicollis*. This binomen has been used since only by Brancsik (1893: 223) and Fairmaire (1895: 13, 15). Later Alluaud (1900: 238) transferred Harold's species to the genus *Liatongus* Reitter, 1893. Since 1915 the species has been included in the Madagascan genus *Helictopleurus* d'Orbigny, 1915. In this combination it has been cited by Lebis (1960: 28) and Paulian & Cambefort (1991: 115). No junior synonym of Harold's species exists.

*Oniticellus amplicollis* Harold is therefore a junior primary homonym of *Oniticellus amplicollis* Heer. Both species have not been considered congeneric for a century. If it is obvious that homonymous species names will never become congeneric again, I generally recommend ignoring such former homonymies and maintaining the current usage of both names (Krell 1996). However, the present case is not that clear. Both species are currently classified as belonging to the tribe Oniticellini. It is unlikely, but not impossible, that they may become congeneric again in the future since the description of *Oniticellus amplicollis* Heer gives no characters which exclude an affiliation to *Helictopleurus*. There are no phylogenetic analyses of the Oniticellini. So it is uncertain whether *Helictopleurus* is an endemic Malagasy element or only a relic of a formerly widely distributed group.

Therefore I propose a nomen novum: *Helictopleurus neoamplicollis* nom. nov. for *Oniticellus amplicollis* Harold, 1880 [currently *Helictopleurus amplicollis* (Harold) d'Orbigny].

### Zusammenfassung

*Oniticellus amplicollis* Harold, 1880 (gegenwärtig *Helictopleurus amplicollis*, Scarabaeidae: Oniticellini), ein Name einer rezenten Dungkäferart aus Madagaskar, ist ein jüngeres primäres Homonym von *O. amplicollis* Heer, 1862, einem Namen für ein miozänes Fossil von Öhningen. Da die vorliegende Klassifikation der Oniticellini nicht auf phylogenetischer Grundlage beruht und zudem die generische Einordnung der fossilen Art unsicher ist, ist es nicht ausgeschlossen, dass beide Arten zukünftig wieder in die selbe Gattung gestellt werden. Daher schlage ich ein nomen novum für das jüngere Homonym vor: *Helictopleurus neoamplicollis* nom. nov.

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